

Service Area Plan

Department of Health

Regional Emergency Medical Services Councils (40205)

Service Area Background Information

Service Area Description

This service area is responsible for the coordination and integration of regional emergency medical services (EMS) into a statewide EMS system. Each of the 11 Regional EMS Councils maintains staff and facilities to conduct on-going coordination, planning, technical assistance, implementation, and evaluation of the EMS system within its designated service area. This is accomplished by maintaining a forum to facilitate the development and coordination of an effective and efficient regional EMS system, promoting and acting as an advocate for issues beneficial to the EMS system, and maintaining an advisory structure comprised of a governing Board of Directors and committees.

Service Area Alignment to Mission

This service area directly aligns with the Virginia Department of Health's mission of promoting and protecting the health of Virginians by reducing death and disability resulting from sudden or serious injury and illness in the Commonwealth. This is accomplished through planning and development of a comprehensive, coordinated regional emergency medical services (EMS) system; and provision of other technical assistance and support to enable the EMS community to provide the highest quality emergency medical care possible to those in need.

Service Area Statutory Authority

§ 32.1-111.11 of the Code of Virginia establishes regional emergency medical services councils:

- Authorized to receive and disburse public funds, and
- Charged with the development and implementation of an efficient and effective regional emergency medical services delivery system.

Council Boards include representatives of the participating local governments, fire protection agencies, law-enforcement agencies, emergency medical services agencies, hospitals, licensed practicing physicians, emergency care nurses, mental health professionals, emergency medical technicians and other appropriate allied health professionals. Council Boards maintain a regional emergency medical services plan in cooperation with the Board of Health. They also match state funds with local funds obtained from private or public sources in the proportion specified in the regulations of the Board of Health. Regional EMS councils are designated by the Board of Health every three years.

Service Area Customer Base

Customer(s)	Served	Potential
Advanced Life Support Training Coordinators	421	421
Citizens of the Commonwealth	7,400,000	7,488,800
EMS agencies	829	839
EMS Instructors	653	653
EMS providers	33,000	33,330
Hospitals	91	91
Localities	135	135
Poison Centers	3	3
Trauma Centers	14	14
Virginia Assoc. of Volunteer Rescue Squads	1	1

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Anticipated Changes In Service Area Customer Base

The establishment of Emergency Medical Service agencies is dynamic and dependent on the consent of local governments. Some local governments are increasingly encouraging the establishment of EMS agencies in their communities by investigating and funding government combination agencies that are staffed by local government employees during the day and by community volunteers at night. This effort is increasing in rural areas as the availability of volunteers becomes more limited. The regional councils anticipate growth in the number of agencies staffed by governmental employees and volunteers to approach 10% in the next two years.

Service Area Products and Services

- Develop regional EMS Plan to coordinate and improve the delivery of EMS in the region
- Provide basic and continuing education of EMS providers within their region
- Develop regional EMS protocols
- Provide public information and education of the EMS system
- Prepare regional Mass Casualty Incident Plan
- Conduct recruitment and retention program
- Provide oversight of critical incident stress management

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Factors Impacting Service Area Products and Services

- New regulations of Regional EMS Councils will increase the demands on council resources and local priorities.
- The citizens of the Commonwealth consistently demand a higher level of EMS care. Public expectations continue to increase despite the dwindling numbers of volunteers and decreasing availability of employers to allow volunteer EMS providers to respond during working hours.
- Urban areas are experiencing a population boom that will require more EMS resources – both in personnel and equipment.
- The federal government has directed funding for homeland security towards first responders in the aftermath of September 11, 2001. The funding has been directed primarily towards police and fire responders and EMS agencies have not received a significant portion of funds. This has caused funding for “normal” EMS operations to be diverted from routine use to be used for preparation for a terrorist incident.
- Recruitment and retention are ongoing problems for both volunteer and career agencies. The average EMS provider stays in the system only five years.
- Inconsistent and unstable funding to regional EMS councils for long-term planning and continuity of council programs and services impacts planning and the provision of services.
- Population projections through 2015 indicate a major increase in population from the estimated 7.4 million citizens who resided in the Commonwealth in 2003. The U.S. Census Bureau indicator estimates a 4.3 percent increase in population between 2000 and 2003. There is no corresponding increase expected in the numbers of volunteer or career EMS providers during that period.
- The numbers of Virginia residents 65 years and older are expected to increase significantly with the bulk coming from the so-called “baby boomers” born in the 1945 to 1955 period. U.S. Census Bureau population estimates indicated an 11.2 percent increase between 2000 and 2003. The rate will be higher through 2015. There is no corresponding increase expected in the numbers of volunteer or career EMS providers during that 10-year period.

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Anticipated Changes To Service Area Products and Services

- Implementation of basic life support (BLS) accreditation will require regional EMS councils to establish a new system of providing basic training and certification testing. This will require development, implementation and review of many new procedures and requirements.
- Education of the public, local governing officials, state and federal officials on the mission and services provided by regional EMS councils will be increasing in the future. As local governments face staffing and service challenges, they communicate frequently with regional councils and request materials, assistance and facilitation regarding the regional EMS system and the most appropriate guidance for their individual situations.
- As local governments become more involved with meeting growing expectations of their constituents, coupled with a shrinking EMS work force, the councils will be relied upon to educate local leaders and citizens about the realities of EMS in Virginia and in assisting them as strategic partners in addressing complex issues in the future. Today, EMS Councils seek to assist local jurisdictional leaders; however, in the future, local jurisdictional leaders will be coming to the councils. Councils will need to grow their staffs to accommodate these new work requirements.
- Accredited training programs will move toward a community college based educational system to assure standardization, quality, availability and workforce development. Local jurisdictions will be required to bear more of the cost of technical training associated with providing pre-hospital care. Councils may be called on to become more involved in the monitoring of EMS education and certification activities as this effort grows throughout Virginia. Councils, in concert with the Virginia Office of Emergency Medical Services and training institutions will be expected to increase work products in support of this expected growth.

Service Area Financial Summary

The Code of Virginia, § 46.2-694, provides that the EMS system is to be funded through a \$4 surcharge on motor vehicle registration fees that is earmarked for EMS, commonly referred to as "Four for Life". This section establishes a funding formula for the distribution of funds and specifies the purpose and use of funds. Funding for the Regional EMS Councils is through performance based contract for services required by EMS agencies within their geographical district.

	<u>Fiscal Year 2007</u>		<u>Fiscal Year 2008</u>	
	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund	General Fund	Nongeneral Fund
Base Budget	\$0	\$2,685,314	\$0	\$2,685,314
Changes To Base	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
SERVICE AREA TOTAL	\$0	\$2,685,314	\$0	\$2,685,314

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Service Area Objectives, Measures, and Strategies

Objective 40205.01

Provide Statewide Regional Planning for Virginia's Emergency Medical Services System

Effective planning and coordination is essential to the success of Virginia's EMS system. Such plans should facilitate the development and coordination of effective and efficient delivery of EMS in each region. Virginia's Regional EMS Councils provide overall coordination and leadership in establishing and maintaining EMS related plans, which are approved by the Virginia Department of Health Office of EMS.

This Objective Supports the Following Agency Goals:

- Provide strong leadership and operational support for Virginia's public health system.
(This objective is also aligned with Virginia's long term objective to protect the public's safety and security, ensuring a fair and effective system of justice and providing a prepared response to emergencies and disasters of all kinds)
- Collaborate with partners in the health care and human services system to assure access to quality health care and human services.
(This objective is also aligned with Virginia's long term objective to protect the public's safety and security, ensuring a fair and effective system of justice and providing a prepared response to emergencies and disasters of all kinds)
- Promote systems, policies and practices that facilitate improved health for all Virginians.
(This objective is also aligned with Virginia's long term objective to protect the public's safety and security, ensuring a fair and effective system of justice and providing a prepared response to emergencies and disasters of all kinds)
- Respond in a timely manner to any emergency impacting public health through preparation, collaboration, education and rapid intervention.
(This objective is also aligned with Virginia's long term objective to protect the public's safety and security, ensuring a fair and effective system of justice and providing a prepared response to emergencies and disasters of all kinds)

This Objective Has The Following Measure(s):

● **Measure 40205.01.01**

Percent completion of the total number of contracted services within the performance based contract for each Regional EMS Council.

Measure Type: Outcome

Measure Frequency: Annually

Measure Baseline: In FY04 there was an overall 88% completion rate for all Regional EMS Council ' contracted services.

Measure Target: 95% during FY07.

Measure Source and Calculation:

By contract with the Virginia Department of Health, each region must submit reports on a quarterly and annual basis that summarizes the progress and completion of the scope of services.

Objective 40205.01 Has the Following Strategies:

- Maintain stakeholder forums to facilitate the development and coordination of an effective and efficient regional EMS system.

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- Establish and maintain advisory structures that are comprised of a governing Board of Directors and committee structures.
- Promote and act as an advocate for issues that are important and beneficial to the EMS system.
- Create a process by which stakeholders can review and, when appropriate, adopt policies, procedures and plans to enhance the regional delivery of EMS.
- Develop, implement and maintain Regional EMS Plans.
- Develop, implement and maintain Regional Trauma Triage Plans.
- Develop, implement and maintain Regional Mass Casualty Incident Plans.
- Develop, implement and maintain Regional EMS Hospital Diversion Plans.
- Conduct regional educational sessions for EMS stakeholders on plans.
- Provide evaluation and guidance on Virginia's Regulations Governing EMS.